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Title: Need to provide financial assistance to the State Government of Karnataka for desilting the Water tanks in Kolar in Karnataka.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR): Sir, my constituency, Kolar in Karnataka, is a drought-prone area. This year also there was no sufficient rainfall despite flood and cyclonic havoc in the northern parts of Karnataka. Low rainfall is the perennial problem of my constituency. In this area, more than 80 per cent of the people are agriculturists. There are no irrigational facilities and hence unemployment and poverty are daunting the agriculturists and the educated youths. The number of unemployed has increased enormously in Kolar because of the closure of Kolar gold field mines.

The problems of agriculturists are mounting day by day. During summer season, even drinking water will not be available to the people of my constituency. The ground water level has gone down to 400 to 500 ft. deep. Neither hand-pump nor any other alternative arrangements can help the hapless agriculturists.

There are about 3000 tanks and ponds in my constituency. Their water storing capacity is being reduced each successive year. In fact, I have represented to the Government of India on several occasions regarding this problem. The Centre has not taken any measure to solve this problem so far.

I urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to come to the rescue of the people, particularly the farmers of Kolar, by providing Rs.2000 crore for desilting the tanks in Kolar.